**General Description:** An access trail to the Great Western Trail (GWT) from the Hells Backbone Road.

**Mileage:** 1.7 miles  
**Difficulty:**  
- Foot: moderate  
- Bike: moderate/strenuous  
- Horse: easy  
- OHV: not permitted

**Trailhead access:** Graded dirt road  
**Elevation loss / gain:** 240 feet  
**Water availability:** Water is not available on this trail. When the trail reaches the GWT, Sand Creek to the east usually has water. Bring your own water for day hikes. All water should be filtered or treated before drinking.

**Hazards / obstacles:** Mosquitoes can be prevalent in spring and early summer, wear a long sleeve shirt and pants and use insect repellent. Weather can change quickly. Be prepared for cold weather year round. Ridges, saddles, view points and open meadows are dangerous during thunderstorms.

**Topo maps:** USGS 7.5 minute quads: Roger Peak

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**The Trailhead:** From Escalante, turn north on the Hells Backbone Road. At 0.7 miles the road will fork, stay right. After 3.5 miles the road will turn to dirt and is now called Forest Road 153 (FR 153). At 13.6 miles the road will fork, turn right following the sign to “Hells Backbone Bridge” (FR 153). After passing the Upper Death Access look for a sandy two track road on the left at 23.5 miles. Take this road to the parking area. You will pass the trailhead on the left.

**The Trail:** The trail begins to the southwest of the parking area on an old road. The trail climbs in the beginning then levels out for awhile. You will slowly begin descending toward Sand Creek. Before reaching Sand Creek the trail will connect with the GWT. McGath Lake is approximately 2.5 miles to the east and the Cowpuncher Guard Station is to the west.